

- **Williamsburg Region 1**

5806 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 253-7072

- **Forrest - Region 2**

910 Thomas Jefferson Road
Forrest, VA 24551-9223
(804) 525-7522

- **Marion - Region 3**

1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(540) 783-4860

- **Verona - Region 4**

P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

- **Fredericksburg - Region 5**

1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Community and Law Enforcement Working Together

Each neighborhood has its own unique needs and personality. Program strategies/guidelines are flexible. The most important ingredient for success is membership. Obviously the more members of the community involved the more effective the Wildlife Crime Watch program. After program organization, citizens are trained to recognize and properly report suspicious/illegal activity that occurs within their community. After implementation, Wildlife Crime Watch will be a known deterrent to those predisposed to illegal activity. Wildlife Crime Watch is about forming a team between the community and law enforcement. Together we can make a difference!

Visit our web site at:

<http://www.dgif.state.va.us>

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

PHONE

1-800-237-5712

Or email: wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us. For all other suspicious activities contact your local Sheriff's Department.



VIRGINIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs & facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please write to: Va. Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, Attn: compliance Officer, 4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104

10/27/99

For more information or for information on forming a Wildlife Crime Watch contact your local Game Warden.

**YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA
SPORTSMAN'S REWARD FUND, INC. BY SENDING
YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO:
VIRGINIA CRIME LINE, 4010 WEST BROAD STREET,
RICHMOND, VA. 23230-1104**

WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH

WHAT IS A WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH?



A PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE, THE ENVIRONMENT, PROPERTY AND PEOPLE

WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

The Basics of Wildlife Crime Watch

Wildlife Crime Watch is a program dedicated to improving the quality of life of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The program directly correlates with the safety aspect of the mission of the Department. The program is a Department- community partnership. The program requires the active participation of citizens, working with law enforcement, to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity. Citizens act as additional eyes and ears for law enforcement and through information provided and cooperative efforts. The result is inroads against crime.

Why Wildlife Crime Watch?

Wildlife Crime Watch can offer benefits to you whether you live in a high crime area or not. This program is similar to the well: known *Neighborhood Watch*. The program offers communities a greater sense of security, quality of life, and an advanced level of protection to our natural resources.

Benefits may include

- Reducing the risk of becoming a crime victim and criminal activity in your community

- Reducing the poaching of wildlife in your community
- Knowledge and avenues for effective response to suspicious/illegal activity
- Other pertinent information on issues that impact your neighborhood
- Free Wildlife Crime Watch signage
- An opportunity to gain closer relationships with your neighbors and Department of Game & Inland Fisheries officials

Wildlife Crime Watch is not

- Not a vigilante type group
- Citizens pursuing criminals, or becoming physically involved in a criminal event
- Taking the law into your own hands

How much work is involved?

The level of labor involved in initialization and implementation depends on each community. Meetings and programs are set up according to the needs of participants. To maintain "active" status, a minimum of one meeting and one activity (i.e., clean-up day, ice cream social, BBQ, educational programs) is required within a calendar year.

The role of the Wildlife Crime Watch Captain

The Wildlife Crime Watch Captain serves as the coordinator and liaison for the community. A Captain serves as a spokesperson, schedules group activities, communicates regularly with Department of Game & Inland Fisheries enforcement division and coordinates/facilitates community communication. The captain should:

- Maintain a list of all members
- Develop, maintain and distribute community maps which include the names, addresses, and a means to contact Wildlife Crime Watch participants
- Distribute information provided by Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Greet new community members, educate about program philosophies and solicit membership

The Role of the Members

Each person in the Wildlife Watch plays a vital role in the success of the program. Members primarily interact with other program members and law enforcement. Members regularly monitor community activity, attend membership meetings and effectively communicate with fellow members and law enforcement.

Wildlife Crime Watch Programs available for DGIF

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries offers a variety of programming that relates to hunting, wildlife management, youth education, fishing, safety and boating. Game Wardens, Wildlife Biologists, Fisheries Biologists, and Non-Game Biologists are all resources available to Wildlife Crime Watch groups. Program meetings can be tailored to assist with issues relevant to each community. Program subject material does not necessitate wildlife/game law violations. To schedule a program or to learn more about what is available, contact the game warden assigned to your county/city by calling the closest regional office.